

1/19/66

Dear Cedric,

Aronson has replied to my letter of December 26. He is not responsive and so far as I am concerned I shall say no more of it. I certainly cannot concede him fewer prerogatives than the fat-cat editors take for themselves, but I can and do regret that the editor of the Guardian has seen fit to ~~the book~~ ^{to the book}. We had an earlier, one way correspondence. If Sally had not sent you the book I doubt if the Guardian would have reviewed it. I made a specific offer for advertising in the Guardian nine months ago that ~~xxxx~~ has yet to be answered. A copy of WHITEWASH went to Aronson in the very first mailing. I made similar proposals to other editors of other left of center publications, and where I got responses, they were slender or attempted blackmail, to which I made specific and private reply. I am aghast at the behavior of the so-called "liberals" and too many "progressives" on this subject, which I, rightly or wrongly, regard as a touchstone issue, and the stench of the flesh burned in Germany is strong.

I shall not comment to Aronson about this sentence, either: "Your sending the book to Belfrage directly but not to the Guardian was, I think, a mistake. Not that Belfrage should not have it but if you wanted the book reviewed quickly, the proper thing would have been to send it to the paper." I gave away about \$2,500 worth of books last time, spent what for me was a fortune in time and money, for almost nothing. Not a single one of these efforts resulted in a single review or story. Those few I got, I got through interested people. Aronson was not alone. The New Republic read the book in manuscript, Luce declined to publish it, I sent them two copies when it was printed, and not until a British correspondent intervened (on his own) with Alex Campbell did they review it. I've since phoned Campbell at least a dozen times; I've been there three or four, and I've had no response. He has no idea what I had for him, besides a copy of the book. I'll not be there again. I send no review copies out at all. I put a release in the National Press Club announcing press copies were available at named bookstores and I've not even checked to see if any were picked up. I've learned, I think, and I'll do it my way. I've sold 4,500 copies without full effort, for I've got to divide myself too much.

My hunch is that the New York area bookstores are doing a brisk business in the Dell reprint tonight, for I spread Louis Nizer's corrupt guts on those wonderful WOR kilocycles today in a four-hour special taped yesterday, if I had to fight him, the moderator of the show and the crooked behind the back deal they'd worked out in advance. My phone has been busy, with people who didn't know my address because the station did not keep its bargain to give it taking the great time to locate and phone me, and what wonderful things I've heard! The Dell book was in the top ten of each of their sales lists for the part of the month it was available, and as of now, before any of the advertising they placed could do anything, it is their sixth best seller, and they've had it out less than two months.

Sally didn't answer her phone. I hope this means she was being delivered of six babies who will all grow to be like their mother. Six would then not be enough!

Czollek writes they are considering. Thanks. I've sent him III, in which Dell is now expressing interest, having declined it earlier. I understand those media people who had begun to look into the assassination story have withdrawn. One of the reporters involved tells me they have found nothing I haven't already published and have not even gotten most of that. They are not about to reprint me, so the easiest thing for them is to do nothing. I think that can be changed and will be, for this is not about to crawl away and hide. That monster Manchester will be a real boon. Few people realize what this and the related scandals have done to the government's overall credibility. Orders for WHITEWASH III, not yet written, accompanied by checks, come in daily. I've got to concentrate on that. I may still have it by the end of next month, depending on my appearances and the time they take. Sincerely,